



WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY | June 4, 2026 5:00pm – 7:00pm | Virtual

Members in attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Dana Daniels (staff), Glen “Alex” Alexander, Laura Hanna, Mike MacKay, Mark Fairhart, Paul Meyer, Rick Beauregard, Jackie Dexter, Alexi Guddal, Beth Lorence, Kaylee Galloway, Mary Lou Steward

Others: Adrienne Douglass-Scott, Erica Bleke, Dan Thompson, Alan Chapman, Julie Hirsch, Jeff Whitty, Kim Clarkin

1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Mark began the meeting with the land acknowledgement and roundtable introductions. A quorum was present.
2. **June 4 Agenda:** The June meeting agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of May Meeting Summary:** The May meeting summary was approved.
4. **Community Updates:** Julie Hirsch announced that the Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum is offering a summer internship, paid with a stipend, for high school or college students ideally to help with the Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring. Please spread the word.
5. **MRC Partner Committee Updates:**
 - **County Council:** no update.
 - **City Council:** no update.
 - **Port of Bellingham:** no update
 - **City of Blaine:** no update.
 - **Northwest Straits Commission:** On June 3, 2026, the House version of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2860) passed with 374 yeas to 49 nays! Twenty-two years ago, the original Northwest Straits Commission authorization sun-setted. Shortly thereafter, an external review panel noted the success of the Northwest Straits Commission-Marine Resources Committee model and recommended that it be reauthorized at the federal level. Since then, this is the first time a bill to reauthorize the Commission has passed the House of Representatives!
6. **Green Marine:** Adrienne Douglass-Scott, Sustainability Program Manager, Port of Bellingham (POB), provided an update on the Port’s Green Marine certification. [View menu of POB environmental programs.](#) The PowerPoint slides are included with these meeting minutes, and highlights the Port has made over the past couple years. With the Aquatic Ecosystems Performance Indicator, the Port is being asked to map their “zone of influence”. Adrienne mentioned she would like to have a conversation with the MRC about how that zone should be delineated. Where are potential sources of pollutants? What resources do we need where?
7. **MRC Project Updates:**
 - a. **Beach Seine with Schools:** Mike summarized the Beach Seine with Schools 2026 program. This is the fifth year the MRC has run this program. 2026 included Kendall Elementary, Columbia Elementary, and Cordata Elementary. 185 students participated. Huge thanks to the Salish Sea School, for providing extra learning opportunities for the students. Huge thanks to the Tribal speakers, for committing their

time to speak with the students.

- b. *Forage Fish Monitoring* – Dana mentioned that the next forage fish survey is scheduled for June 26, 10:00-11:00 am at Little Squalicum Beach.
- c. *Wildcat Cove* - 21 applications were received for the MRC internship at Wildcat Cove. Dana Austin and Mark will be handling interviews the week of June 8. The anticipated start date is June 22.
- d. *Harmful Algal Bloom Sampling* – Whatcom County beaches are all currently closed for recreational shellfish collection, due to biotoxins (Alexandrium).
- e. *Olympia Oyster Restoration*: June 10, 1:30 PM - ~5:00PM, 200 bags of seeded cultch from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, will be dropped off via U-Haul at North Chuckanut Bay. These facts are simply being staged in the plot areas. The out planting will occur in August. Drayton Harbor plots will be surveyed on June 17. WDFW as recommended that the MRC present their Olympia oyster work at the [International Conference on Shellfish Restoration](#), October 4-7. An abstract is been submitted.
- f. *Outreach Toolkit*: Alexi mentioned the MRC trialed the outreach toolkit at the Day the Beach event, in Birch Bay. A lesson plan was developed, with talking points associated with the intertidal. A dissecting scope was purchased that works out battery power. The MRC has beefed up their tools to support low tide critters and a tank and wrap lessons around what the MRC is doing in the community for our marine resources. Alexi is coming up with better branding for the MRC – i.e. tablecloths, posters, new logo. Alexi will bring a finalized version of the new MRC logo in August.

8. MRC Subcommittee Updates:

Policy/Advisory (temporary title): potential to work with the Port on delineating a zone of influence.

Education and outreach: update provided by Alexi above. Will the MRC host a Water Week event?

Volunteer engagement and recruitment: no update.

MRC Executive: There is no MRC meeting in July.

- 9. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:34pm. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, and it will be hybrid.